

BROWARD COUNTY



49TH ANNUAL

PIONEER DAY

HONORING BROWARD'S PIONEER SPIRIT

2025



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025
Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center
1770 Monroe St, Hollywood, FL 33020



Hollywood
Historical
Society

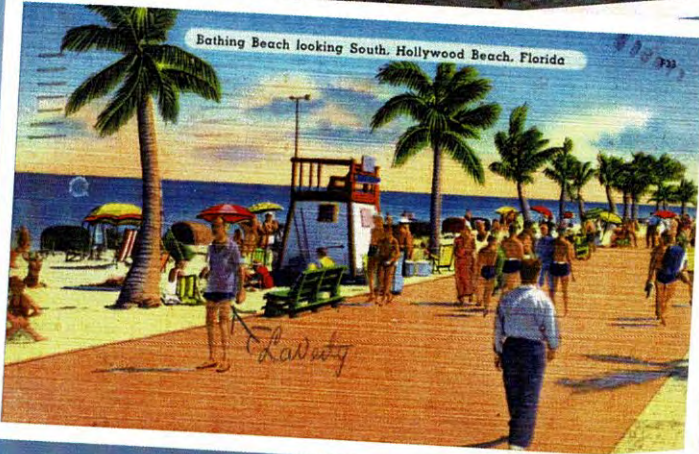


BROWARD.ORG/HISTORY

Greetings from Hollywood, Fla.

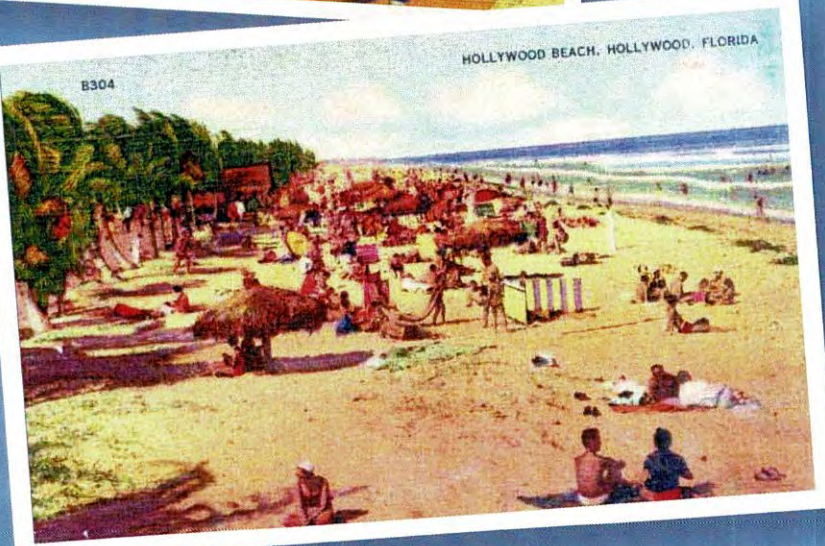


Bathing Beach looking South, Hollywood Beach, Florida



B304

HOLLYWOOD BEACH, HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA



Broward County Historic Preservation Board

presents



Saturday, November 8, 2025
Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center
1770 Monroe St, Hollywood, FL 33020 - Noon to 2pm



Hollywood
Historical
Society



Broward.org/History



Pioneer Day is the premier celebration of Broward County's history and culture. Since the first Pioneer Day in 1973, more than 2000 Broward County residents and organizations have been honored for their contributions to our shared heritage.

Pioneer Day highlights what binds us together as residents, communities, and as a Broward Family. Our home is internationally recognized for our diversity of cultures and mix of perspectives. Pioneer Day is an opportunity to celebrate these differences while recognizing the common values and experiences that unify us.

Broward County's future and past are inextricably linked. The lessons of our history will guide the decisions that we make as we progress forward. The questions we face as a County - like how to grow our neighborhoods and strengthen our downtowns - require us to look to our history for guidance. As we learn and grow from the past, our present moment also allows us to place our history in context and reflect with the benefit of hindsight. This crucial insight allows us to honor those who have contributed in many meaningful ways to the history, development, growth and life of our cities. To those being recognized today - we are truly blessed to have you as our special "Pioneers."

This year's celebration coincides with the City of Hollywood's centennial. We are proud to have the City, together with the City's Historical Society, sponsor this event and celebrate this special occasion. This historic milestone is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the County's pioneers in this beautiful and historical city. As a Hollywood residents and a City Commissioner in Hollywood for 12 years prior to serving on the Broward County Commission, I have been able to witness how the city has grown into itself while remaining true to the singular history that makes Hollywood such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

I want to personally congratulate each Pioneer and special Award recipient for their immense impact on our community. We should never forget who we are, where we came from, and what we've done to build a better Broward County. Your leadership helps us remember and move forward into the next chapter in Broward County's history.

Mayor Beam Furr
Broward County



P I O N E E R D A Y 2 0 2 5

Welcome to the City of Hollywood! We are honored to have you join us for the 49th Annual Pioneer Day during this, our city's centennial year! It's an honor for Hollywood to host this year as a part of our historic milestone. Thank you for joining me as we recognize our pioneers and award recipients and celebrate those who have had a hand in making history and shaping our Broward County community for generations to come.



In Hollywood, our centennial celebration has been a year-long series of extraordinary events honoring our rich history, vibrant present and promising future. We are incredibly proud of our community and the important role Hollywood has played in our collective Broward County history. The dedication of this year's pioneers speaks to all who have come before us, and their hard work that we are recognizing today. The work of recipients like Richard Vest and Jen Shaver, and our very own Hollywood Historical Society, and pioneers like Karen Albertson, Ward Eshleman and Connie Gowan are rightly celebrated and should serve as inspiration for those following in their footsteps.

As I reflect on Hollywood's milestone year that has been filled with community, history, and excitement for the future, I sincerely thank all of our pioneers and those working hard today for a bright and better tomorrow for all. Thank you for celebrating with us, and congratulations again to each of our honorees for their work in furthering the diversity and cultural vibrance of our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "J. Levy". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a smaller "L" and "V" following.

Josh Levy
Mayor, City of Hollywood



Congratulations!

to the men and women who have been
selected as Broward County Pioneers

From the Broward County Board of County Commissioners



Lamar P. Fisher
District 4

Alexandra P. Davis
District 7

Hazelle P. Rogers
District 9

Michael Udine
District 3

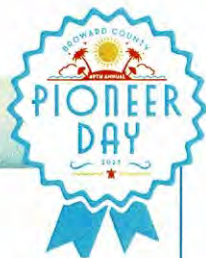
Nan H. Rich
District 1

Beam Furr
Mayor - District 6

Mark D. Bogen
Vice Mayor - District 2

Steve Geller
District 5

Robert McKinzie
District 8



BROWARD COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD



DEREK T. DAVIS, Chair (Miramar)

Davis is the former Curator of the Old Dillard Museum in Fort Lauderdale, developing cultural and educational programs at a historic schoolhouse listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, built as the first public school building for blacks in Broward County. His work includes organizing exhibitions, administering musical concerts, managing collaborations with cultural organizations, facilitating policies and procedures for

non-profit fundraising organizations, conducting tours, overseeing website development and managing the museum staff. As a high school student during the period of racial protests in the late 1960s, he wrote a play, "Black Search for the Future" that was lauded, videotaped by Channel 10 and viewed all over South Florida. He's worked for The Miami Herald, the Black Archives History and Research Center, the African American Research Library, and Broward County Schools. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications from Florida Atlantic University. Appointed by former Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness, Derek Davis serves as a Member of the Board and fills the professional category of Conservation or Curation.



JEFFREY SCHWARTZ, Vice Chair (Parkland)

Jeff Schwartz is the President of the Parkland Historical Society. In this capacity, he was directly involved with creating and burying the Parkland time capsule, scheduled to be opened on the city's 100 year anniversary. He initiated the city's historical marker program, identifying and marking sites as well as educating public visitors, and was critical in getting the city's first book on the History of Parkland, Florida, written and published. A world traveler, he has been to almost 100 countries, for both work and personal

enjoyment. He received his Bachelors of Geology from City University New York, York College, and followed up with a Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory Fellowship in Geophysics at Columbia University. Appointed by Commissioner Michael Udine, Jeff Schwartz serves as a Member of the Board and fills the professional category of Historic Preservation.



DANIEL J. STALLONE Member (Davie)

Daniel J. Stallone is an Attorney/Municipal Prosecutor in the Town of Davie's Town Attorney Office. He has filled previous roles as the Code Compliance Official and Police Legal Advisor during his twenty-five (25) year tenure and service to the Town. His experience combines the enforcement and interpretation of the Town's Code of Ordinances, including municipal zoning codes and land use regulations. Daniel holds a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of Dayton, Ohio, a Master's degree in public administration from Florida Atlantic University and a Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University. The versatile student has gone on to earn his Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University. Daniel has pursued further studies in the University of Florida's online program where he has earned Bachelors' degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and is currently completing a third bachelor's in Criminology, along with a Certificate in Emergency Management. Daniel has seven children and fifteen grandchildren in his large and loving Italian American family. Appointed by Commissioner Steve Geller, Mr. Stallone serves as a Member of the Board and fills the professional category of Historic Preservation, Planning and Land Use.

CYNTHIA STRACHAN SAUNDERS,



Member (West Park)

Cynthia Strachan Saunders is a vocalist, songwriter, actress, community historian, curator of local community history and author. As a vocalist known as "Jus' Cynthia", her debut CD is a collection of smooth jazz and contemporary songs. Her debut book, a pictorial and written oral history of the first decade of Carver Ranches, stemmed from her grandparents, who were original pioneers of the area. She currently owns, occupies, and maintains the first Broward County-designated historical site and operates a community history museum on the site. Cynthia has authored two books: *"Promises from the Palmetto Bush, the Genesis of Carver Ranches"* and *"Hope from Palmetto Bush, Carver Ranches and Hope Park in the 1950s"*. Appointed by former Commissioner Barbara Sharief, Cynthia Saunders serves as a Member of the Historic Preservation Board and fills the professional category of History or Folklore.



KIM WEISMANTLE, Member (Davie)

Kim Weismantle, a Davie native, is the Education Director at the Old Davie School Museum. After earning a Bachelor's in Recreation and Leisure Management and a Masters in Public History from FSU, she has showcased Davie's history through exhibits and programs at the Old Davie School Museum since 2013. Her contributions include developing a historic walking tour, initiating the ODSHM Oral History Project, publishing "Images of America: Davie" in 2021, and welcoming over 5,000 students annually for the interactive Step Back in Time field trip program. Kim is dedicated to the ongoing research of west Broward's twentieth-century history, including the Everglades, agricultural changes, and Davie's evolving community. In 2023, she was appointed by Commissioner Lamar P. Fisher to the Historic Preservation Board, filling the professional category of historic preservation.



ANTHONY ABBATE, Member (Fort Lauderdale)

Anthony Abbate is a Professor at Florida Atlantic University's School of Architecture and former Associate Provost for the Broward Campuses. A registered architect in Florida, he holds a Master of Architecture from Washington University and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the Catholic University of America. Abbate has received several accolades, including the 2014 William G. McMinn Award for Outstanding Architectural Education, the Arango Design Award in 2000, and Washington University's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1995, along with 25 awards from the American Institute of Architects.

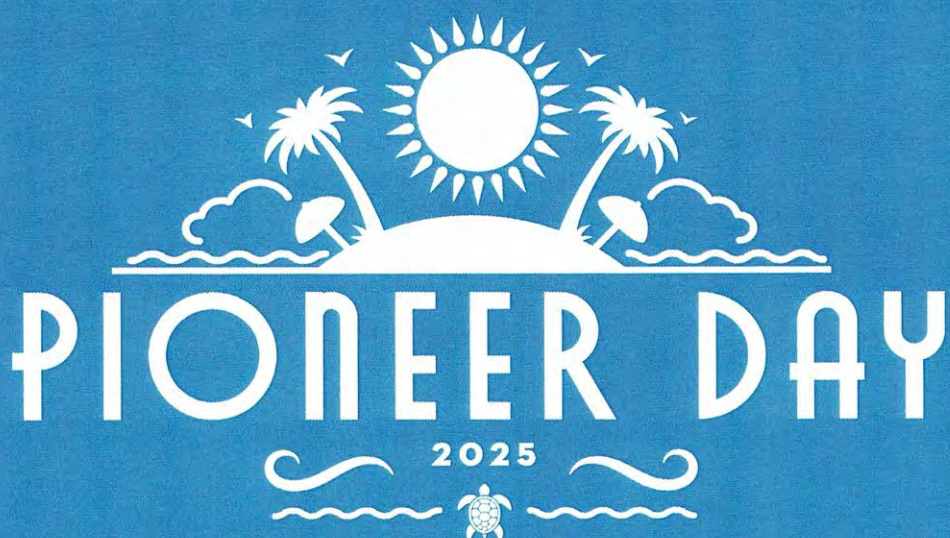
He has served as chair of the Broward County Cultural Council, the City of Fort Lauderdale's Sustainability Advisory Board and the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board (BRAB). He is also a past president of the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale. Currently, he serves on the board of the Hispanic Unity of Florida. Appointed in 2019 by Commissioner Tim Ryan, he also serves as a member of the Board in the Licensed Architect category.

**KEN CUTLER, Member (Parkland)**

Ken Cutler is a proud Florida native, born and raised in Hollywood, Florida. He attended the University of Florida with an undergraduate degree in English Literature and History, and graduated from Nova Law School where he attained his law degree in 1986. He currently serves as a mediator and arbitrator for cases all across the state.

Ken is very proud of his community involvement, serving in several diverse community partnership programs with the Parkland Friends of the Library and Parkland Historical Society. He is actively involved in historical and genealogical research and is known for his random acts of historical and genealogical kindness and is the author of the book "A History of Parkland, Florida". He received a Florida State Historical Society Golden Quill award for his article "Mystery Solved: Justice George W. Macrae" published in the Florida Supreme Court's Historical Review in 2021. He currently serves as a board member for the Broward County Historic Preservation Board and for the B'nai Brith Deerfield Apartments which supports affordable housing for the elderly.

In November 2016 he was elected to the Parkland City Commission and served for 8 years including as Vice Mayor. Ken served our community as a Broward County Teen Court Judge for 19 years and is proud to have spearheaded the Rubin Stacy road renaming project. He is a frequent lecturer and author of various topics on Broward County and Parkland history.



OUR 2025 HONOREES

BROWARD MUNICIPAL SERVICES DISTRICT

REVEREND JESSIE SCIPIO JR.



REVEREND JESSIE SCIPIO JR. and his wife Zandra moved to Broward County in 1973. He spent over four decades as a dedicated educator in the Broward County Public Schools, and for the past 20 years, he's been deeply involved in uplifting underserved communities.



Rev. Scipio made an early impact teaching PE and science at several schools, but his standout achievement was launching the READ (Robotics Engineering Architecture Design) class at Sunrise Middle. He created a hands-on STEM program that engaged both gifted and struggling students, teaching them to build robots, code, and think critically—all while having fun.

Outside the classroom, he's been a driving force in the Broward Municipal Services District. He helped transform the Boulevard Gardens Community Center from a trailer into a full-service facility and has led efforts to clean up neighborhoods and improve homes for seniors. As president of the Boulevard Gardens Community Group for 16 years, he's earned the respect of both residents and local leaders.

Rev. Scipio was honored in 2023 by Allen University's Hall of Fame for athletics and was recently inducted into the Area Agency on Aging's Senior Hall of Fame.

*Nominated by
Broward Municipal Services District (BMSD)*

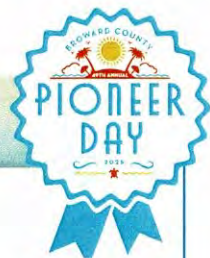
BROWARD MUNICIPAL SERVICES DISTRICT

Broward Municipal Services District or BMSD, is defined as the unincorporated areas of Broward County, which includes the communities of Roosevelt Gardens, Broadview Park, Boulevard Gardens, Washington Park, and Franklin Park. The BMSD area is not served by any of the County's 31 cities; instead County acts as the municipal government for the BMSD.

Read more at [BMSD.Broward.org](https://www.bmsd.broward.org)



COCONUT CREEK



SHARON M. VOLLMER



SHARON M. VOLLMER was born at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale and raised in Pompano Beach and Coconut Creek, back when the area was still mostly farmland. Her childhood was filled with rope swings, rock pit swims, and picking strawberries in the fields. Her family ran Wooden Shoe Gardens, a nursery started in 1959, where she began working at age 10—watering, weeding, and later designing landscapes and managing crews.

In 2000, Sharon joined the City of Coconut Creek as a Landscape Inspector and became Urban Forester in 2004. She launched the City's first tree-impact review for home projects and transformed a small Arbor Day tree giveaway into a major annual event. Over 25 years, it's grown into a community celebration, distributing over 13,000 trees and 24,000 plants.

After Hurricane Wilma, she started a grassroots effort to help families in need, which evolved into the Butterfly Buddies program. She also helped found the Coconut Creek Garden Club and led award-winning tree canopy initiatives.

From saving seedlings as a child to shaping Coconut Creek's green future, Sharon's legacy is rooted in community, resilience, and a deep love for the land.

*Nominated by
City of Coconut Creek*

COCONUT CREEK

The city took its name from the coconut trees, that were planted in the area by early developers. Robert E. Bateman, one of the developers, named Coconut Creek after combining the names of Miami-Dade County's village of Indian Creek and the Miami neighborhood of Coconut Grove.

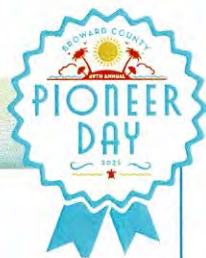


*Sharon at her
Grandma's house,
the oldest house in
Coconut Creek.*



*Sample-McDougald
House is a 4,700
square feet historic
home built in 1916.*

CORAL SPRINGS



JOY CARTER



JOY CARTER's story is woven into the fabric of Coral Springs. She began her real estate career when Weston was still Bonaventure and the Sawgrass Expressway didn't exist. A call to her mom in Las Vegas led her to Coral Ridge Properties—the developer shaping Coral Springs—and that call changed everything.



Coral Ridge
Properties
sales team.

Joy spent 11 years selling homes north of Wiles Road, back when one-acre lots went for \$65,000. She remembers dirt roads, hot air balloons floating low over her yard, and a city just beginning to grow. Coral Springs had only 63,000 residents then—now it's more than doubled. She raised her family here, watched cows graze near University Drive, and celebrated milestones like the city's 25th anniversary (and its record-breaking hamburger!). She later served 10 years on the City Commission, stepping up as Mayor Pro Tem after the passing of Mayor Skip Campbell.

Joy's impact goes far beyond politics. She's been a mentor, volunteer, Chamber Chair, and a driving force behind the Coral Springs Festival of the Arts. Even today, she's still giving back—beautifying neighborhoods, supporting local causes, and showing up for her city.

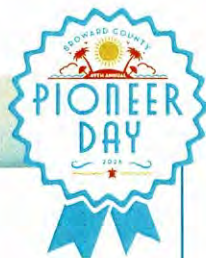
Nominated by City of Coral Springs

CORAL SPRINGS

More than 55 years ago, successful Fort Lauderdale builders, James S. Hunt and Joe Taravella of Coral Ridge Properties, had the vision to create a planned city from the ground up that they named Coral Springs. To draw interest in the land that was sometimes considered "too far out", they constructed a covered bridge and recruited talk show host Johnny Carson for a land sale BBQ.



DANIA BEACH



JERRY HADLEY



In his words: Every summer, Mother would pack up the younger kids and hop on the Florida East Coast Railroad to visit Grandpa and her sisters and brothers in Palatka, Florida. Since my father Joe worked for the railroad, we rode for free. Those train rides were a real treat—we were traveling, seeing places beyond Dania.

Mother always fried up some chicken and made biscuits for the trip. We'd be on the train, greasy fingers and biscuit crumbs everywhere, while she tried her best to keep us in line. My brother Richard used to say, 'That chicken and biscuits smelled so good, we'd be begging for it before the first stop.' Eventually, Mother would give in and say, 'Here—this is all there is, so don't ask again!' We didn't care. By the time we reached Deerfield Beach, we'd eaten everything.



When I was five, I saw a sign at the Dania station that read 'Colored Waiting Room.' I sat there wide-eyed, looking for red, blue, yellow, and green people—because I knew my colors. Disappointed, I asked, 'Where are the colored people?' Mother pinched my arm and told me to hush. It wasn't until later I realized—we were the 'Colored People.' Joe also grew aloe in the yard—long before it was trendy. He'd slice it, soak it in water, and drink it every morning. It was the most bitter thing you could imagine, but it was his daily tonic—and ours when we were sick. One time, a White man offered to buy Joe's aloe patch. Of course, Joe refused. He wasn't about to sell the source of his strength! **JERRY HADLEY**

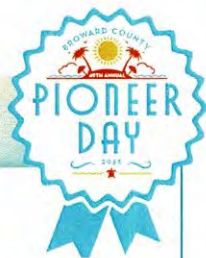
Nominated by City of Dania Beach and the
Dania Beach Historical Society & Museum, Inc.

DANIA BEACH

The historic roots of the first city in Broward County date back to the 1880's, when 12 Danish families moved from Chicago to settle there in 1898-1899. Three years later, 30 Danes were recruited from Oconto, Wisconsin to colonize the settlement, and the first home was built by A.C. Frost. When the Town was incorporated in November 1904, its 35 residents changed the name from Modello to Dania.



DAVIE



SHIRLEY PREVATT



SHIRLEY PREVATT has called the Town of Davie home since 1956, witnessing firsthand the Town's transformation - from cow pastures along University Drive to the thriving community it is today. Originally from Baldwyn, Mississippi, Shirley was raised on a 200- acre farm where her family reared dairy cows and produced soybeans and cotton. Her early life included remarkable encounters - she recalls a young Elvis Presley picking up milk cans from their farm, and family stories of outlaw Jesse James once staying at her great-grandmother's home.

Shirley was part of the first class at McArthur High School, helping choose the school's original mascot and colors, before graduating from Fort Lauderdale High School after a district change. It was at a square dance at Davie Town Hall where she met her husband, Charles "Chuck" Prevatt, a native Floridian.



A dedicated community member, Shirley has been Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certified since 2015, completed the Davie Civilian Police Academy, and served on the Orange Blossom Crime Watch Team for the Eastside neighborhood. She is the proud mother of two sons and grandmother to four grandsons. Through decades of change, Shirley has remained a strong, active presence in Davie - a true example of community spirit.

*Nominated by
The Town of Davie*

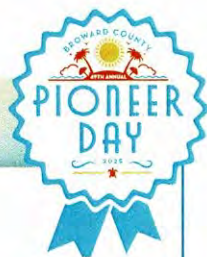
DAVIE

The wilderness of the Everglades slowly gave way to farmland as the dredging of canals began in South Florida. In 1908, Robert Parsell (R.P.) Davie purchased 28,000 acres of land in the Everglades and organized an experimental farm to demonstrate the possibilities of the new farmland, enticing pioneers from around the world. In 1914 the new residents voted together on the name 'Davie' after the original developer and the Davie Experimental Farm.

Old Davie School Museum



DEERFIELD BEACH



MICHAEL ZAIDMAN



"Since joining the Deerfield Beach Historical Society Board in January 2022, **MICHAEL ZAIDMAN** has brought fresh energy and vision to preserving the city's history. He jumped right in, helping reorganize and modernize the archives with interns Carolina Rocha and Ben Smith. Together, they moved the collection to the new Cultural Center space, upgraded storage materials, and introduced the Society's first

professional cataloging system, PastPerfect.

Michael's efforts sparked new interest in the archives. Thanks to his outreach, the Society received two major donations: nearly 1,000 issues of The Observer newspaper, now being digitized through a partnership with Newspapers.com, and the Deerfield Beach Arboretum's historical records, now permanently housed and cataloged. He also revived the "History at High Noon" lecture series, brought in new speakers, and opened the Society's doors to community groups like the Society of Florida Archivists and the South Florida Huskers. He even helped launch a Little Free Library at the Cultural Center.

But for Michael, the highlight is riding the Society's float in the annual Pioneer Day Parade with his family (see photograph). That joy and connection fuels his passion for preserving Deerfield Beach's story.

*Nominated by
The Deerfield Beach Historical Society*

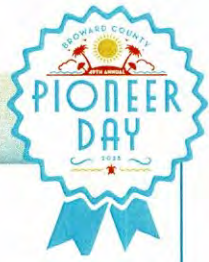


DEERFIELD BEACH

The Town of Deerfield was incorporated on June 11, 1925, a year that also saw the opening of the first public library, which was serving a population that had climbed to 1,300 residents. In 1939, the name of the town was changed to Deerfield Beach, primarily an agricultural community until the late 1940s.



FORT LAUDERDALE



WARD ESHLEMAN JR



WARD ESHLEMAN JR. got his start in the family business as a teenager, learning the ropes early on. In 1980, he officially took over Ward's Marine Electric from his father, bringing fresh ideas and a vision to grow and modernize the company.



As President and now Chairman of the Board, Ward Jr. transformed the business into a global leader in marine electrical systems. With over 50 employees and multiple locations, the company now offers everything from engineering and compliance testing to manufacturing and retail. He even launched the parts counter in the '80s and introduced in-house systems to boost quality and efficiency.

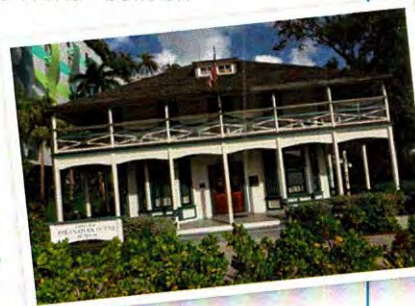


Beyond the business, Ward Jr. has played a major role in shaping the marine industry. He's the immediate past Chair of the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) and still leads its Electrical Committee, helping set national safety standards. He also served on the MIAF Board in the '80s, continuing his family's legacy of industry leadership. Today, his daughter Kristina Hebert serves as CEO, making Ward's a proud third-generation family business. Their story mirrors Fort Lauderdale's rise as the Yachting Capital of the World—built on innovation, integrity, and a passion for excellence.

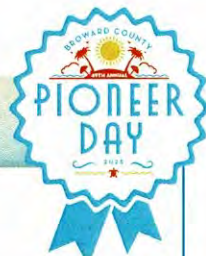
Nominated by City of Fort Lauderdale

FORT LAUDERDALE

The City of Fort Lauderdale is named for a Second Seminole War fortification built on the banks of the New River in 1838. It was not until the Florida East Coast Railroad built tracks through the area in the mid-1890s that any organized development began. The city was incorporated in 1911, and in 1915 was designated the county seat of newly formed Broward County.



Stranahan House was built in 1901 by Frank Stranahan, credited as Fort Lauderdale's founding father.



JEN HUPF



"Although I was born and raised in Iowa, Florida is now home. Growing up, I had a wide range of hobbies—reading, writing, drawing, playing music, and especially golf. I played on championship golf teams in high school and continued competing in college while studying communications and social sciences. I'm a proud mom of four grown sons—Joshua, Jacob, Jaren, and Jordan—and a grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren:

Isaac, Lillybeth, Harlee, and Hayden.

Most of my career was spent as a software developer. After moving to Broward County, I worked at Ultimate Software (now UKG) as a product owner until retiring in 2023. I also spent 18 years as a voice-over artist, lending my voice to commercials, audiobooks, and more.



Genealogy has been a passion of mine for nearly 40 years. After leaving corporate life, I pursued it professionally, earning a certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University. I now run Jen's Genealogy in Davie. I love helping others discover their family stories and teaching them how to research their own. Through the Genealogical Society of Broward County, I recently led a six-week workshop to share that knowledge with others." - **JEN HUPF**

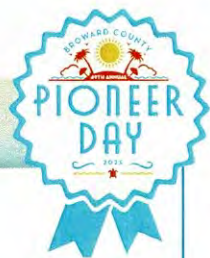
Nominated by the Genealogical Society of Broward County

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY



The Genealogical Society of Broward County had its beginning in 1967 when five people attended an organizational meeting. Rapid growth began in the mid-1970's with the Bicentennial and with Alex Haley's novel ROOTS, putting emphasis on history and family history. By the late 1970's, the Society had over a hundred members and was meeting in a courtroom of the Broward County Courthouse. In 1977 the Genealogical Society of Broward County was chartered as a non-profit cultural organization.

HALLANDALE BEACH



CARMEN DAVIS



CARMEN DAVIS began her journey with the City of Hallandale Beach on June 4, 1984, working as a Public Service Worker I, providing custodial services across various departments. But her impact went far beyond her job description. Early on, she became a dedicated volunteer at the Austin Hepburn Senior Mini Center—and she hasn't stopped since.



When Carmen retired on July 7, 2008, she didn't slow down. Instead, she became an even more active volunteer at the Senior Mini Center, where she's been a trailblazer for over 41 years. Her kindness and energy have touched countless lives in Hallandale Beach and beyond. Carmen is the heart of the center. She checks in on seniors who haven't been around, drives them to appointments, shops for groceries, prepares meals, and even cares for their pets. She visits the homebound and hospitalized, always offering a warm smile and a helping hand—never asking for anything in return.

At the center, she volunteers daily in the kitchen and still finds time to brighten every table with her laughter and warmth. Often the last to leave, she makes sure everyone gets home safely. Carmen Davis is a true pioneer—serving with heart, joy, and unwavering dedication.

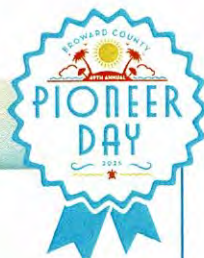
Nominated by City of Hallandale Beach

HALLANDALE BEACH

Hallandale Beach, like most of Broward County, had no permanent European-descended population until the end of the 19th century. Seminole Indians, in settlements that lay inland of the Atlantic shore, hunted in the area and gathered coontie roots to produce arrowroot starch. The northern edge of Hallandale Beach (along Pembroke Road) still features noticeable hammocks, points elevated above sea level in the distant past.



HISTORY FORT LAUDERDALE



SAM MORRISON



SAMUEL F. MORRISON was born in Flagstaff, Arizona, in 1936 and raised in Phoenix. After earning an associate degree, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1955 to 1959. He later earned a bachelor's in English and a Master of Library Science, eventually completing studies at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Sam's library career began with an innovative project in Frostproof, Florida, bringing library services to migrant workers. In 1974, he joined the newly formed Broward County Library system,

rising to deputy director. In 1987, he was tapped by Chicago Mayor Harold Washington to oversee construction of the Harold Washington Library. He returned to Broward in 1990 as Library Director, growing the system from four to 38 branches and earning national recognition as Library Journal's "Library of the Year" in 1996.



Inspired by Atlanta's Auburn Avenue library, Sam led the creation of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center in Fort Lauderdale, which opened in 2002.

Now retired, Sam remains active with the Friends of AARLCC, NSU, and the Community Foundation of Broward. His many honors include the ALA's highest award and a lifelike animatronic at AARLCC that shares his vision: "a bridge and a beacon... a shining light for a world in which knowledge is the true power."

Nominated by History Fort Lauderdale

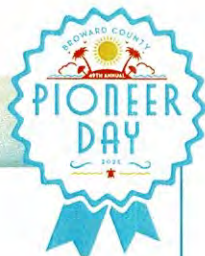
HISTORY FORT LAUDERDALE

History Fort Lauderdale, proud steward of our community's past by making our heritage accessible and engaging to residents and visitors, celebrates its 60th Anniversary in the South Florida community in 2022



The New River Inn (now History Fort Lauderdale) was constructed in 1905 by the area's first contractor Edwin T. King.

HOLLYWOOD



KAREN L. ALBERTSON



"A proud South Broward High School graduate (Class of 1961), I grew up in Hollywood, Florida, attending Hollywood Central School and Olsen Jr. High. In high school, I was on the swim team, sang in the chorus, and worked for an attorney through a cooperative business education program—an experience that launched my long career as a paralegal.

I've been an active member of the Hollywood Historical Society since 2007, serving as Secretary, Vice President, President, Executive Director, and Office Manager. In 2016, I launched our free Historic Lecture Series at the Stirling Road Library, which continues to draw large crowds monthly.

I also volunteer with a pet rescue in Dania and enjoy creating photo greeting cards featuring scenes from Hollywood Beach, which I sell at local art shows. Years ago, my spouse and I owned a pet store in Miramar—a fun chapter in my life.



Now retired, I stay busy with my art, community involvement, and love for animals." - KAREN L. ALBERTSON

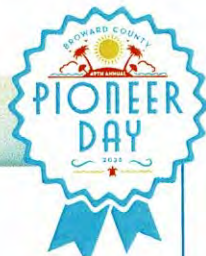
*Nominated by
Hollywood Historical Society*

HOLLYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The HHS is the collector, preserver and sharer of all history and memorabilia of Hollywood. Its goal is also to educate and encourage public awareness of Hollywood's heritage, and to pass on an enduring community to succeeding generations. The society now owns over 25,000 Hollywood historical items, mostly held in the Research Center, which serves as its office and archive.



LAUDERDALE LAKES



TYCIE CAUSWELL



In 1983, **TYCIE CAUSWELL** made the life-changing decision to leave her home, career, and loved ones in Jamaica to settle in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. A devoted mother, she relocated to give her daughter with special needs the opportunity to thrive—a decision she remains proud of to this day.

A graduate of Bethlehem College with a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of the West Indies, she spent 22 years as a passionate educator before continuing her legacy of service in her new community.

In 1987, she joined the East Gate Homeowners Association, later serving as president for four years and founding the East Gate Scholarship for high school students. A longtime member of Redeemer Lutheran Church since 1993, she leads the church's Food Pantry, which has served families facing food insecurity for over 23 years.



She currently chairs the Lauderdale Lakes Historic Preservation Board and helped establish the Samuel S. Brown Room in honor of Broward County's first Black mayor. A dedicated member of the Friends of the Broward County Library and the Caribbean American Democratic Club, she has received numerous awards for her civic contributions and remains deeply committed to serving the city she loves.

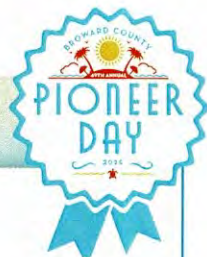
Nominated by City of Lauderdale Lakes

LAUDERDALE LAKES

The City of Lauderdale Lakes was incorporated on June 22, 1961. The City comprises an area of approximately four square miles in the "heart" of Broward County, with its center at the crossroads of State Road 7/ US 441 and Oakland Park Boulevard. Through the 1960s and 1970s, the City grew into a vibrant community boasting a diverse population, economic vitality and beautiful neighborhoods surrounded by sparkling lakes.



LIGHTHOUSE POINT



LEO BENTZ (In Memoriam)



LEO BENTZ had been a pillar of the Lighthouse Point community for over 50 years. After attending the University of Pennsylvania, he earned his law degree from the University of Miami and joined the Florida Bar in 1966. He and his late wife Mary moved to Lighthouse Point in 1969, where they raised three children and built a life rooted in service and community.

By 1979, Leo was serving on the City Commission, including three years as Mayor. He was deeply involved in shaping the city's future—especially through his work with the "Committee of 50," which helped beautify Federal Highway and improve zoning and landscaping standards. Even after his time in office, Leo remained a dedicated civic voice, regularly attending Commission meetings and offering thoughtful input on redevelopment, zoning, and governance.



His legal background and passion for fairness made him a strong advocate for a City Manager form of government and for clear, transparent decision-making. Outside of city affairs, Leo also ran a water ski school in Miami Beach, mentoring young athletes and innovating ski boat design.

Leo Bentz's legacy was one of leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to making Lighthouse Point a better place for generations to come.

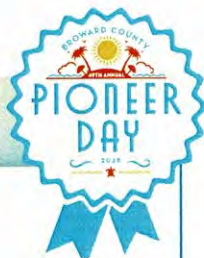
Nominated by City of Lighthouse Point

LIGHTHOUSE POINT

In an area of mangrove swamps and fertile farmland, Miss Juliette Becker built the first home in 1947 on the SE corner of Sample Road and NE 21st Avenue. Four years later, in 1951, the first acreage was acquired for development by R. E Batemen. In 1951 the first home in a new subdivision called Hillsboro Isles was completed. On December 23, 1953, the first baby, Cynthia Ann Wright, was born to "Lighthouse Point" parents. On June 13, 1956, the Town of Lighthouse Point came into being when 107 of about 600 people living here voted to incorporate.



OAKLAND PARK



SANDRA EDWARDS



SANDRA EDWARDS is a proud graduate of Fort Lauderdale High School, Class of 1972, and attended Broward Community College from 1975 to 1976. One of her proudest accomplishments was organizing a heartfelt reunion to honor the principals and teachers of the Old Negro School in Oakland Park. It was a night of gratitude and remembrance for educators who went above and

beyond—providing clothes, care, and dignity to children from sharecropper families during difficult times. Sandra fondly recalls May Day celebrations, where the community came together around the Maypole, sharing food, laughter, and tradition.



Guided by her mother's words—"When you get where you're going, don't forget where you came from"—Sandra has remained deeply rooted in her community. She's served on the Oakland Park Beautification Advisory Board, currently sits on the Historic Preservation Board, and volunteers for events like Neighborhood Day and Free Tree Giveaways. She also played key roles in the 2020 Census Action Team and COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

A graduate of the Oakland Park Local Government Academy, Sandra is president of the Harlem McBride Neighborhood Association and an active member of Mt. Zion AME Church. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, nature walks,

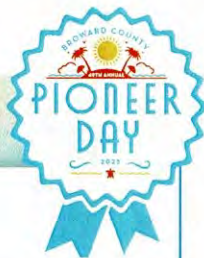
Nominated by the City of Oakland Park



OAKLAND PARK

Located in the geographic center of eastern Broward County, bustling Oakland Park claimed 27,000 residents by the early 1990s. Incorporated first as the City of Floranada in 1925, and four years later, as the City of Oakland Park. oday Oakland Park has a 2024 population of 44,092.

PARKLAND



MICHAEL UDINE



MICHAEL UDINE's journey began in Livingston, New Jersey, before his family moved to South Florida in 1980. He graduated from J.P. Taravella High School in Coral Springs and went on to earn a Finance degree from the University of Florida in 1986, followed by a law degree in 1989. For over 30 years, he's practiced law, managing a successful firm focused on insurance, banking, and real estate across Florida.



Michael was elected to the Broward County Commission in 2016, later serving as Vice Mayor and then Mayor. He represents District 3, which includes Parkland, where he also served over a decade as Mayor and City Commissioner. His leadership helped Parkland earn recognition as one of South Florida's safest and most family-friendly cities.

He's known for pushing forward major initiatives, including a new 911 system, active shooter training, and mental health support programs. Michael also champions innovation and economic growth, supporting tech startups and small businesses. He serves on the board of Legacy Bank of Florida and received the 2019 Distinguished Leader Award from FAU's Research Park.

Michael lives in Parkland with his wife Stacey. They have three children and remain deeply involved in their community, faith, and local causes.

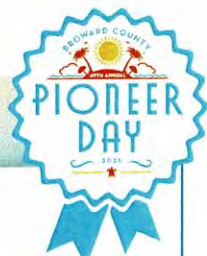
*Nominated by City of Parkland and the
Parkland Historical Society*

PARKLAND

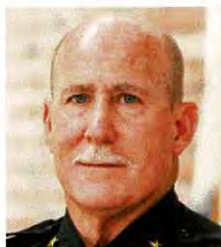
In the 1960s, Bruce Barnett Blount inherited land in northwest Broward and envisioned a city—Parkland. By 1963, it had just 22 residents. Development began in the late 1970s with Parkland Lakes (Cypress Head), and by 1982, infrastructure improvements prepared the city for a housing boom.



PLANTATION



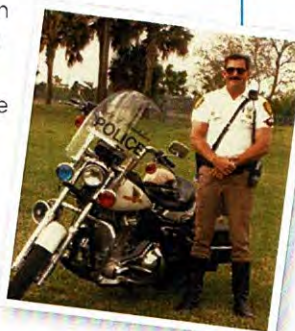
CHIEF W. HOWARD HARRISON



Chief **W. HOWARD HARRISON** was born in Orlando, Florida, and raised in the City of Plantation, where he still lives today with his wife. Together, they've raised two children in the same community he's proudly served for decades. After graduating from South Plantation High School, he earned a full football scholarship to Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan, where he completed his Bachelor's degree in

Criminal Justice in 1983.

Shortly after graduation, he joined the Plantation Police Department, launching a career that has spanned over four decades. Chief Harrison has worn many hats throughout his service—Detective, SWAT Officer and Sergeant, Traffic Homicide Investigator, Street Crimes Sergeant, Road Patrol Lieutenant, and Captain of the General Services Division. He later served as Deputy Chief for both the Administration and Operations Bureaus before becoming Chief.

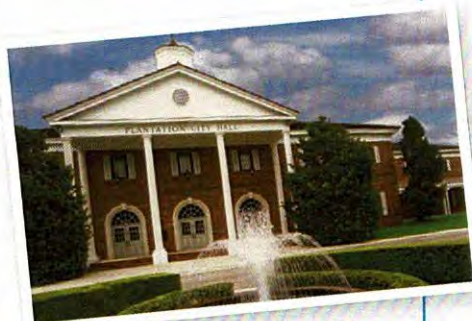


A respected leader in law enforcement, Chief Harrison served as the 2018 President of the Broward County Chiefs of Police Association. He's also a proud graduate of the FBI National Academy (205th session) and the Southern Police Institute's Command Officers Development Course.

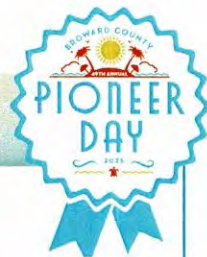
*Nominated by
Plantation Historical Society*

PLANTATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since 1974, the Plantation Historical Society has dedicated its time and resources to preserving the City's history. The group has educated and enlightened residents and visitors from around the world about our history and those who have worked to make Plantation, "Your Place in the Sun."



POMPANO BEACH



MICAH JOHNSON



MICAH ALGERNON JOHNSON, a proud native of Pompano Beach, was born in 1951 to Reverend Albert E. Johnson and Elizabeth Richardson Johnson. One of ten children, he was raised in the nurturing community of Greater Bethel AME Church under the guidance of Frank and Florence Ali. After graduating from Florida A&M University with a degree in Sociology, Micah became a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc. fraternity.



For over 20 years, Micah has been a passionate advocate for preserving Pompano Beach's rich history. As a dedicated member of the Historic Preservation Committee, he's contributed valuable research to the city's Historic Site file, the Local Register of Historic Places, and the National Register of Historic Places. Beyond preservation, Micah is known for his mentorship and community outreach. He's served on the boards of Kappa Alpha Psi Alumni Inc., WRBD Radio, Broward 211, and more. His efforts have earned him honors like the Miami Herald Neighbors-Pioneer Award and the Orange Bowl Committee's Excellence in Service Award.

Carrying forward the legacy of his parents, Micah continues to enrich lives through service, mentorship, and a deep love for his community.

*Nominated by Pompano Beach
Historical Society*

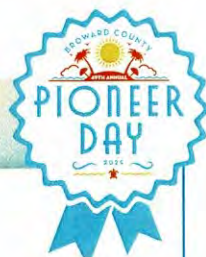
POMPANO BEACH

Pompano Beach celebrated the 100th anniversary of its incorporation on July 3, 2008. It is the second oldest city in Broward County, and the fifth oldest in all of South Florida.

Many early residents were farmers, coming south to escape the effects of the mid-decade freezes. Incorporated as a town in 1908, the coming of the Flagler railroad led to development farther west, as a small commercial district began to grow near the Florida East Coast Railway depot. I



SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA (HOLLYWOOD)



CONNIE FRANK GOWEN



CONNIE GOWEN was born in the Everglades and raised in a traditional Seminole camp in West Palm Beach. After losing her mother at birth, she was lovingly brought up by her maternal aunt and uncle. As a proud member of the Otter Clan, Connie grew up deeply rooted in Seminole culture, which is guided by matriarchal traditions.

In 1979, her family moved permanently to the Hollywood Seminole Reservation in Broward County. But even before that, she lived intermittently in what was then known as Dania, now Hollywood, where she was once offered a life-changing opportunity.

During the Seminole Tribe's push for federal recognition, leaders were asked if they had a tribal princess. Chairman Bill Osceola called Connie at 3 am and asked her to represent the Tribe. Nervous but guided by her mother's wisdom—"when your people ask for help, you say yes"—Connie accepted. She wore a hand-beaded crown, which she still treasures today.

For two years, Connie represented the Seminole Tribe with grace. Though she no longer wears the crown, her legacy lives on. Her knowledge of Seminole history, culture, and crafts continues to inspire, reminding young women that leadership is carried in spirit, not just in title.

*Nominated by the
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum*

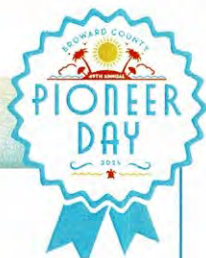


SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

The Hollywood Seminole Reservation, established in 1926 during the Great Depression, supported the Seminole Tribe's economic survival. Now known as the Dania Reservation, it became a cultural hub with leaders like Ada Tiger and the Arts and Crafts Center. Its history reflects the Tribe's resilience through wars, displacement, and cultural preservation.



SOUTHWEST RANCHES



KATHY SULLIVAN



KATHY SULLIVAN has called Southwest Ranches home since 1983, when she moved there as a teenager with her family. A proud graduate of Western High School and Florida Atlantic University, she spent her youth riding horses through the trails of Rolling Oaks—an experience that sparked her deep love for the community.



Now raising her own family in Southwest Ranches, Kathy has remained committed to preserving the town's rural charm and close-knit spirit. Her involvement began when her children were young, volunteering with the Rolling Oaks Civic Association. Today, she serves as its president, continuing to organize events that bring neighbors together. Kathy was also one of the early members of the Southwest Ranches Education Advisory Board, where she's helped shape the town's educational priorities. She's especially passionate about supporting local youth, playing a key role in fundraising for the Southwest Ranches Scholarship, which helps students pursue higher education.

Whether she's leading a board meeting or lending a hand at a town event, Kathy's dedication is evident. Her years of service and love for Southwest Ranches have made a lasting impact—and she continues to be a driving force behind its strong sense of community.

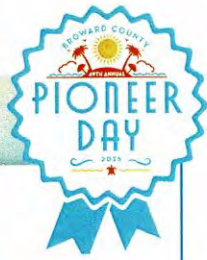
Nominated by Town of Southwest Ranches

SOUTHWEST RANCHES

In the fall of 1996 a proposed bill was introduced to the Broward County Legislative Delegation requesting to annex all the unincorporated area now known today as Southwest Ranches to avoid annexation into Pembroke Pines and to preserve its semi-rural lifestyle. As a result of this grassroots effort, the State Legislature passed a bill in the 1997 session calling for a vote of the citizens of Southwest Ranches which became the County's 30th incorporated place in March 2000.



WEST PARK



THOMAS DORSETT



THOMAS DORSETT is a dedicated community leader and retired carpenter foreman who has spent over three decades serving the people of West Park. Originally trained at the Bahamas Technical School, he received specialized instruction in general construction and went on to build a successful career. He worked for over 17 years with the Broward County Public School system, retiring as a respected carpenter foreman. His experience also includes time as a journeyman carpenter, supervisor, and Work Superintendent for the Ministry of Works in Nassau, Bahamas.

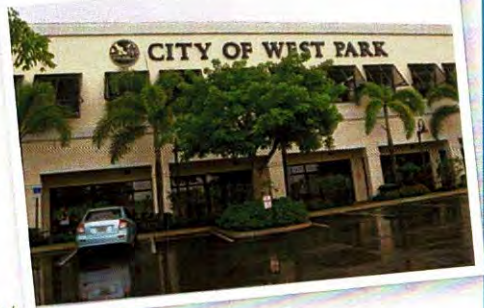
Thomas has always been deeply involved in his community. He was one of the first elected City Commissioners when West Park was incorporated in 2005 and later served as Vice Mayor. Known for his commitment to public service and economic development, he's been a steady advocate for progress and efficiency in local government.



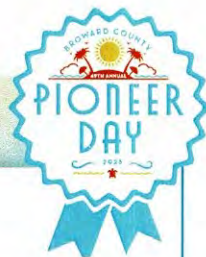
Nominated by City of West Park

WEST PARK

The City of West Park is Broward County's newest city. The previously unincorporated neighborhoods of Carver Ranches, Lake Forest, Miami Gardens, and Utopia embarked on the road to incorporation in 2004, after the Florida Legislature approved House Bill 1491, which provided for an election on November 2, 2004. Following a vote of 3,400 to 956 for incorporation, West Park was on its way to becoming Broward County's 31st city.



WILTON MANORS



JOSEPH L. GALLEGOS



JOSEPH GALLEGOS graduated from the University of Florida in 1972 with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Secondary Education, earning state certification. He later earned a Master of Public Administration from Florida International University in 1982.

In April 1999, he began what would become a 16-year tenure as City Manager of Wilton Manors. “I had the great fortune to work with elected officials and department directors who, despite differing views, always came together for the good of the city,” he reflects.



Under his leadership, Wilton Manors transformed from a quiet bedroom community into a vibrant Urban Village. The rise of Wilton Drive as an entertainment and economic hub marked a turning point in the city’s renaissance. One of his proudest achievements was securing community support for a new City Hall, Police Department, and Emergency Operations Center—replacing the outdated 1957 facility. “It took a lot of outreach, but over 60% of voters said yes.” He also oversaw the revitalization of the city’s six community parks, now central to Wilton Manors’ charm. In retirement, he and his wife Hope remain active through the Kiwanis Club, proudly affirming, “Life is just better here.”

*Nominated by the City of Wilton Manors and
Wilton Manors Historical Society*

WILTON MANORS

Before it was named Wilton Manors, the area in which Wilton Manors is now located was known as Colohatchee. The name Wilton Manors was created by a land developer from Georgia in 1925. Ned Willingham led the early development of the town, and Wilton Manors was officially incorporated as a municipality in 1947.



P I O N E E R D A Y

2 0 2 5

JUDGE CLAYTON NANCE AWARD

AWARDS

2025

MICHAEL ZAIDMAN

Since joining the Deerfield Beach Historical Society Board in January 2022, **MICHAEL ZAIDMAN** has played a pivotal role in revitalizing the organization's archives and community engagement. His leadership has preserved the city's historical treasures, encouraged new donations, and created meaningful ways for residents to connect with their heritage.



Michael led the relocation of the archives to the Cultural Center, improved preservation with acid-free storage, and introduced PastPerfect, the Society's first professional cataloging system. His efforts sparked renewed public interest and significant new contributions, including the Observer Newspaper Collection—digitized and made globally accessible—and the Deerfield Beach Arboretum Collection, now permanently preserved.



He also revitalized the History at High Noon lecture series and helped host major events like the Society of Florida Archivists Annual Meeting and the South Florida Huskers' Taste of Nebraska. He even introduced a Little Free Library at the Cultural Center. Michael's favorite moment each year is building and riding the Pioneer Day Parade float with his family. "Seeing the joy in my son's eyes keeps me coming back," he says.

Through vision, energy, and heart, Michael has elevated the Society's mission and impact—making him a proud nominee for the Judge Clayton Nance Award.

Nominated by the Deerfield Beach Historical Society

JUDGE CLAYTON NANCE AWARD

This award is presented to a person or group devoted to the study of local history, support of historical research/preservation or for helping promote local history and resources.

Examples of past recipients: Pompano Beach Centennial Committee (for commemorating Pompano's anniversary and diverse history), Broward Parks & Recreation (for restoring Baez House and leadership in maintaining sites), Navy League of the U.S. (for statue project), Ah Tha Thi Ki Museum (for supporting Seminole history preservation), African American Research Library (for supporting Black history preservation), Women's History Coalition (for supporting Women's history preservation) among others.

SPECIAL AWARD



CONNIE FRANK GOWEN



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For two years, Connie represented the Seminole Tribe with grace. Though she no longer wears the crown, her legacy lives on. Her knowledge of Seminole history, culture, and crafts continues to inspire, reminding young women that leadership is carried in spirit, not just in title.

*Nominated by the
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum*



HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD SPECIAL AWARD

This award is presented to a person or group who has contributed to the mission of Broward's Historic Preservation Board to help preserve local sites of historic, architectural, cultural and archaeological significance or who have helped preserve their community's history, culture and identity.

SPECIAL AWARD



RICHARD VEST



RICHARD VEST, a San Diego State University graduate with a degree in Business Administration and Finance, has been working in investment banking since 1996. Over the years, he's advised institutional clients and executed a wide range of fixed income trades—including U.S. Treasuries, Agencies, Corporates, MBS, CMOs, CMBS, ARMs, SBA Pools, ABS, Trust Preferreds, and Municipals.

Beyond finance, Richard has a deep passion for historic preservation. In 2002, he purchased the long-abandoned Joseph Wesley Young mansion in Hollywood, Florida. After a full restoration—featured on HGTV—the home earned awards from the City of Hollywood. He also served on the board of the Hollywood Historical Society and later led a grassroots effort to save the historic Great Southern Hotel. Though the hotel was eventually demolished in 2020, the movement kept it standing for 15 more years.

Richard rejoined the Hollywood Historical Society board and, in 2024, became a board member of the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation, continuing his commitment to preserving South Florida's architectural heritage.

*Nominated by the
Broward Trust for Historic
Preservation*



Joseph Wesley Young House, built in 1925 as the personal residence of the founder of Hollywood by the Sea, Joseph W. Young. This 23 room Spanish Moorish architectural gem was designed by the prominent Indianapolis architects, Rubush and Hunter, with help from Young's personal friend-famed architect Addison Mizner.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD SPECIAL AWARD

Examples of past recipients: Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, City of Southwest Ranches (for archaeological preservation), Mt. Herman African American Methodist Episcopal Church, Professor Ralph Johnson, Deerfield Beach Historical Society, certain municipal commissioners who've supported preservation and others.

STUART P. MCIVER HISTORIAN'S AWARD



JEN SHAVER

JEN SHAVER is a passionate historian dedicated to preserving South Florida's rich cultural and architectural heritage. Her family has deep roots in the region, having settled in Miami-Dade County in the 1890s. For the past 20 years, Jen has called Pembroke Pines home, where she continues her advocacy for historic preservation.



STUART P. MCIVER HISTORIAN'S AWARD

The Historian's award was started in 1992 and traditionally this award is presented to a person or group who has contributed to the mission of the BCHC and does not qualify under the other award criteria.

Jen earned her B.A. in History and a Certificate in Latin American Studies with a focus on Indigenous Culture from Florida Atlantic University. While there, she interned at the Old Davie School Museum, where she curated an exhibit and hosted a podcast episode on Indigenous history. She later earned graduate certificates in Sustainable Preservation from Cornell University and Museum Studies from Northwestern University.

Her expertise spans collections management, historic architecture, and archaeological analysis. She has worked with the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, analyzing artifacts and advocating for historic cemeteries.

Currently with Stantec Consulting Services, Jen conducts architectural surveys and reviews redevelopment projects across South Florida. Since 2021, she has worked with the Deerfield Beach Historical Society, serving as Lead Project Scholar and now Board Member. She is also the Museum Designer for the upcoming Black History Museum next to the Historic Butler House.



*Nominated by
Deerfield Beach Historical Society*

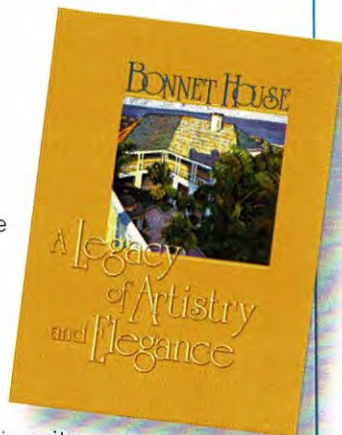
DR. COOPER KIRK MEMORIAL AWARD



J. KENT PLANCK

Bonnet House: A Legacy of Artistry and Elegance,

Kent Planck's book provides visitors a succinct and illustrated history of the Bonnet House and Gardens and the site's original owners Hugh Taylor Birch, Helen Birch Bartlett, Frederic Clay Bartlett, and Evelyn Fortune Bartlett. Kent has also written a 423 page unpublished book on the Bartletts and Bonnet House, presented 11 lectures, and authored three other works related to Bonnet House.



A native of Pekin, Illinois, **KENT PLANCK** holds a bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University where he was elected a charter member of the Medill School of Journalism's Hall of Achievement in 1997. He worked nearly 30 years in the field of communications before retiring in 1994 as Vice President of Public Relations at AT&T. A life-long history buff, Planck has held board positions at both Bonnet House Museum & Gardens and the Wellfleet Historical Society on Cape Cod where he has summered for more than 35 years.

Now a resident of Fort Lauderdale, FL, Planck is a volunteer tour guide at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society and tour guide and annual historic lecturer at Bonnet House. He is also a self-taught artist who exhibits his oil-on-canvas landscapes in both Florida and Cape Cod.

DR. COOPER C. KIRK MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is presented to those involved in writing (research, published works, etc.), creating video, film, photographs, art works or media content that highlights and supports local history and sites.

Examples of past recipients: Stuart McIver, Susan Gillis, Joan Mickelson, Joe Knetsch, Bonnet House & Gardens, Oakland Park Historical Society, FTL Historical Society and others.

*Nominated by Bonnet House
Museum and Gardens*

SPECIAL APPRECIATION AWARD

BROWARD COUNTY
AWARDS
2025

HOLLYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In appreciation for their hosting Pioneer Day 2025 and in recognition of the Hollywood's 100 year anniversary. The City has long demonstrated support for preserving its local history that includes supporting the programs of the city's Historical Society.

The **HOLLYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** has been preserving the rich history of Hollywood, Florida since 1974. As a nonprofit organization, its mission is all about education and preservation—and it shows. With a collection of over 18,000 items, the Society holds everything from vintage photos and maps to pamphlets and a full archive of the Hollywood Sun Tattler newspaper, capturing the city's story throughout the 20th century.



"Hollywood
By the Sea" was
envisioned and begun
in 1920 by one man,
Joseph W. Young, Jr.
He drew up the city plan
with its broad Boulevard
intersected by three
circles.



"Designed by prominent
Hollywood architect Bayard
Lukens in 1935 for Vera and
Clarence Hammerstein, the
Hollywood Historical Society
headquarters is a fine example of
the style Lukens called "Tropical
Modern".

At the heart of the Society is the Hammerstein House, located at 1520 Polk Street. This charming 1935 home was donated in 1980 by Clarence Hammerstein in memory of his beloved wife, Vera. Clarence, a World War I fighter pilot and world traveler, filled the home with personal artifacts that now make up much of the museum's display. After settling in Hollywood in 1935, he became known for growing mangos and oranges, helping to found Flamingo Groves (now Flamingo Gardens), and even assisting city founder Joseph Young in promoting tourism.

The Hammerstein House is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. Visitors can enjoy docent-led tours of this beautifully preserved home, designed by architect Bayard Lukens.

P I O N E E R D A Y 2 0 2 5

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Broward Pioneer Days

Annual Event Exhibits County's History And Culture



Part of the Pioneers honored at Pioneer Days 1977 (Broward County Historical Commission).

The pioneering spirit, lauded throughout the illustrious history of our country, can never be commended too strongly.

There aren't too many places today where one can sit and hear a firsthand account of what the area was like with only a handful of settlers. Yet many in Broward County can still recall what it was like when its one-million-plus population was one-tenth that number.

That's what Pioneer Days is all about. It's a celebration of those who can say "I remember when." And, someday, some of the newer residents may be able to recount, in that same spirit, "I remember Broward County's first Pioneer Days."

Shortly after the Broward County Historical Commission was formed in November 1972, Commission Member Sue Phillips suggested that the group establish an annual county-wide fair or show, honoring pioneer residents. It would permit the historical societies and other civic-oriented groups to exhibit their historical and educational materials. The desired result, of course, was to share information about the area's history and heritage with Broward's residents.

With the help of the Mental Health Association of Broward County, the First Annual Broward County Pioneer Days was held May 5-6, 1973, at the American Heritage School in Wilton Manors. Featuring the Seminole Indians, 3,000 people turned out for the premier Pioneer Days.

The War Memorial Auditorium in Fort Lauderdale was the scene of the second Pioneer Days. Again, the Mental Health Association co-sponsored the event with the Historical Commission and, this year, the City of Fort Lauderdale joined forces. The activities, exhibits, and programs were expanded. A turn-of-the-century "Picnic in the Park" was the theme, but the "picnic" was a wet one. That weekend, October 5-6, 1974, was one of the stormiest of the year; yet 17,000 people came to War Memorial and Holiday Park to take part in the events.

The year 1975 signaled the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Hollywood; thus, Hollywood co-sponsored Pioneer Days that year at Hollywood Hills High School on October 18-19. The Roaring '20s decade dictated the 1975 Pioneer Days' theme because that was the period when Hollywood became a bona fide city. Some 7,000 people attended the affair.

Long before the efforts for the 1975 Pioneer Days Exposition culminated, a committee had initiated work on the 1976 event. Since the United States' Bicentennial also marked the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of Port Everglades, plans were made to hold the Bicentennial Pioneer Days at the Port. With the cooperation of the Port Everglades Commission, administration, and personnel the "best ever" Pioneer Days to date exceeded all hopes and dreams. Some 70,000 people trooped

through the exhibits at the Port's new terminal building on October 9-10. In keeping with the two great events commemorated, the 1976 theme was nautical and patriotic.

As good as the '76 Pioneer Days fete was, the 1977 attendance records topped it. Pompano Beach was the co-sponsor and the city featured agriculture as its theme. On the weekend of October 1-2, an estimated 85,000 people attended the Pioneer Days festivities which were held for the second straight year at Port Everglades.

The sixth annual Pioneer Days again was set at Port Everglades. The city of Oakland Park co-sponsored the event, bringing in a crowd estimated at more than 80,000. Pioneer Days had become, it was obvious, a tradition to Broward Countians.

Pioneer Days also has become a year-round project. Co-sponsored cities worked diligently to plan and coordinate every detail, down to the punch and cookies for those pioneers who came together to remind everyone what Broward County is all about.

This year Dania plays host to Pioneer Days. Festivities are set for September 29-30. Exhibits this year focus on the theme of Broward County's Educational Heritage. Once again, the popular Port Everglades is the scene in which the story of Broward County unfolds, inviting all people to catch glimpses of what life was like 'way back when.



Square dancing was and is a favorite form of recreation. Scene at Pioneer Days 1976. (Broward County Historical Commission).

PIONEER DAY: OUR BROWARD LEGACY

County Commissioners, 1915, Broward County, Florida. State Archives of Florida / Florida Memory



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And, someday, some of the newer residents may be able to recount, in that same spirit, "I remember Broward County's first Pioneer Day." Shortly after the Broward County Historical Commission was formed in November 1972, Commission Member Sue Phillips suggested that the group establish an annual Countywide fair or show, honoring pioneer residents. It would permit the historical societies and other civic-oriented groups to exhibit their historical and educational materials.

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